

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS STATE 126885

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, IMCO, UR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ORGANIZATION.

1. DURING RECENT IMCO MARITIME SATELLITE CONFERENCE IN LONDON, MAJOR OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS WAS SOVIET INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND, OR IF IT UNDERSTOOD, TO ACCEPT U.S. POSITION REGARDING RELATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENTS AND DESIGNATED TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES, AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEM, AS DELINEATED IN AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND AN OPERATING AGREEMENT WHICH TOGETHER WOULD PROVIDE FRAMEWORK FOR PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ORGANIZATION (INMARSAT).
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SOVIET POSITION AT LONDON WAS MANIFESTED IN PLENARY AND COMMITTEE EXCHANGES, AND IN SERIES OF BILATERAL MEETINGS DESIGNED TO DEFINE ROLES OF GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR DESIGNATED ENTITIES IN LANGUAGE THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE

TO BOTH SIDES. AT ONE POINT, AGREEMENT APPARENTLY HAD BEEN REACHED, ONLY TO HAVE SOVIETS ABRUPTLY TEAR IT UP AT END OF ALL-NIGHT SESSION. LONDON EXPERIENCE FOLLOWS EXTENSIVE BILATERAL EXCHANGES IN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH DURING WHICH U.S. POSITION ON FINANCIAL, OPERATING AND TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITIES THAT WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY A U.S. DESIGNATED ENTITY WAS REPEATEDLY EXPLAINED TO SOVIETS, AND WE THOUGHT FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY THEM.

2. AT END OF LONDON CONFERENCE, SOVIET DELEGATION LEADER, DEPUTY MINISTER KOLESNITCHENKO, PROPOSED TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WALDMANN THAT U.S. AND SOVIETS HAVE BILATERAL TALKS PRIOR TO EARLY AUGUST MEETING OF INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED BY CONFERENCE. PLEADING "TRANSLATION" DIFFICULTIES AS REASON FOR AGREEMENT BREAKDOWN DESCRIBED ABOVE, MINISTER SUGGESTED FURTHER DISCUSSIONS COULD HELP TO CLEAR UP MISUNDERSTANDING. FYI U.S. DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT "TRANSLATION DIFFICULTY" HAD ANY BEARING ON SOVIET REVERSAL. END FYI WALDMANN REPLIED THAT U.S. WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS PROVIDED THERE IS REASON TO EXPECT SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENT, BUT U.S. UNWILLING TO JOIN IN JUST ANOTHER SESSION OF UNPRODUCTIVE EXCHANGE.

3. ANY INITIATIVE FOR TALKS LIES WITH SOVIETS. HOWEVER, IN EXPECTATION THAT SOVIETS WILL RAISE SUBJECT IN NEAR FUTURE, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT IS IN U.S. INTEREST TO MAKE OUR CONDITIONS FOR TALKS PERFECTLY CLEAR IN ORDER TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING AND WASTED TIME. THEREFORE, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO MAKE QUIET APPROACH TO MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE TO AMPLIFY WALDMANN REMARKS ALONG FOLLOWING LINE. IF SOVIETS DESIRE MARITIME SATELLITE DISCUSSIONS PRIOR TO EARLY AUGUST, U.S. IS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE, BUT SOVIETS FIRST SHOULD PUT FORTH IN ADVANCE A POSITION PAPER FOR DISCUSSION. SOVIET PAPER SHOULD TAKE AS ITS BASIS RELEVANT CONFERENCE UNCLASSIFIED

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DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY U.S. AT LONDON, SPECIFICALLY MARSAT/CONF/5/3, MARSAT/CONF/5/4, MARSAT/CONF/C.1/WP 2/ REV 1, AND MARSAT/CONF/C.1/WP 5. DOCUMENTS DELINEATE WHAT MUST BE RELATIVE ROLES OF GOVERNMENT AND DESIGNATED TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITY IN ANY INTERNATIONAL MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ORGANIZATION BEFORE U.S. COULD PARTICIPATE. DOCUMENTS ALSO DESCRIBE FRAMEWORK OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND AN OPERATING AGREEMENT. IF SOVIETS CAN NOT ACCEPT FUNDAMENTAL PREMISE OF DESIGNATED ENTITY PARTICIPATION WITH RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AS SET OUT IN U.S. CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS, THEN THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE GAINED BY HOLDING ADDITIONAL BILATERALS. SOVIET POSITION PAPER MIGHT

DISCUSS U.S. DOCUMENTS AND/OR REMARKS OF U.S. SPOKESMEN AT CONFERENCE SESSIONS, AND REQUEST FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF HOW PROPOSED ORGANIZATION WOULD FUNCTION, INCLUDING ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS, IN VIEW OF DESIGNATED ENTITY RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND OPERATING MATTERS. HOWEVER, IF SOVIETS HAVE CONSTITUTIONAL OR POLICY PROBLEMS IN ACCEPTING U.S. POSITION, THEY ARE MATTERS FOR SOVIETS TO SOLVE THEMSELVES, AND NOT SUITABLE OR APPROPRIATE FOR U.S.-USSR DISCUSSIONS. IF SOVIETS ACCEPT THIS AS DEPARTURE POINT FOR BILATERAL TALKS, THEN A MEETING MIGHT BE HELPFUL. IF THEY DO NOT ACCEPT IT, THEN THERE IS LITTLE PURPOSE SERVED IN GETTING TOGETHER AGAIN TO RE-HASH OPPOSING POSITIONS.

4. FYI ALTHOUGH AT BEGINNING OF CONFERENCE, SOVIET VIEWS WERE SHARED BY EUROPEANS, BY CONCLUSION, USG WON SUPPORT FROM THIRTEEN WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS FOR PROPOSAL THAT THERE ARE TWO SETS OF OBLIGATIONS WITHIN INMARSAT: ONE TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY ALL GOVERNMENTS AND, ANOTHER TO BE UNDERTAKEN EITHER BY GOVERNMENTS OR DESIGNATED ENTITIES. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF LATTER RELATE TO FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS. SAME GROUP ALSO SUPPORTED USG PROPOSAL TO INCORPORATE THESE OBLIGATIONS AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR DESIGNATED ENTITY IN AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND AN OPERATING AGREEMENT. SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES THUS WERE ONLY MAJOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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PREPARED TO ACCEPT U.S. POSITION. END FYI INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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